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**Quad City Health Initiative Announces \$30,000 Contribution from Alcoa;
Celebrates 5th Anniversaries of the Smiles For All and Wellness Champions Teams**

The Quad City Health Initiative (QCHI) is grateful to announce that over the next three years it will receive \$30,000 from Alcoa to support the community partnership's operations and special projects associated with the Quad City Health Initiative's Smiles For All and Wellness Champions teams.

"We are thrilled to have Alcoa among our financial sponsors and appreciate their support of our collaborative efforts to improve quality of life in our area," says Nicole Carkner, Project Coordinator for Quad City Health Initiative. "Alcoa has been a strong community partner for many years. We share a common interest in promoting health and wellness in the workplace in order to ensure a vibrant workforce and the continued economic growth of our region."

This month, the Quad City Health Initiative is also celebrating the fifth anniversaries of its Smiles For All and Wellness Champions teams. Both projects were created following a Community Health Assessment process in 2002 that identified access to dental care for low-income families and risk factors for heart disease as major concerns for our region. These anniversaries celebrate the impact of hundreds of volunteers who have brought time, enthusiasm and expertise to bear on meeting these difficult community health challenges.

Over the last five years more than 50 volunteers have worked with the Smiles For All team to increase access to oral health care prevention and treatment services. Highlights of the team's accomplishments include:

- ❖ Co-developing the Volunteer Care Network (in partnership with local dentists, United Way of the QCA and Community Health Care) which has assisted more than 240 patients to obtain restorative dental care valued at more than \$235,000
- ❖ Establishing a community based loan forgiveness program at Community Health Care which made more than \$115,000 in loan forgiveness assistance available to new dentists who choose to practice in the Quad Cities
- ❖ Distributing more than 15,000 oral health kits to meal sites, food pantries, schools and churches to make sure individuals have access to toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss
- ❖ Launching oral health education projects with first grade students at Buchanan Elementary School in Davenport and Hillcrest Elementary School in East Moline
- ❖ Providing oral health education material to more than 10,000 new parents to help them learn to care for their babies' teeth from birth
- ❖ Providing oral health education to senior citizens through senior meal sites and caregiver support groups

Over 75 volunteers have worked with the Wellness Champions team to help Quad Citians make healthier choices regarding diet and exercise. Highlights of the team's accomplishments include:

- ❖ Organizing the Quad Cities' participation in Moon Walks which have engaged more than 8,700 individuals in walking and tracking their exercise habits (plus a well earned victory over rival city Peoria in 2006!)
- ❖ Creating the "Choose Health Live Well" message campaign that has been shared with more than 35 employers and 16 churches and distributed to the general public via five local media partners
- ❖ Supporting the development of a Women's Wellness program at Greater Antioch Baptist Church in partnership with the Rock Island County Health Department
- ❖ Developing a healthy after school project at the Martin Luther King Center to improve the nutrition and exercise habits of young kids
- ❖ Sponsoring the IMAX movie, The Human Body, and six associated community education events
- ❖ Developing and distributing thousands of community education resources including a Speakers Bureau guide, a Community Directory for healthy living, and a Healthy Dining Guide
- ❖ Partnering with the Mississippi Valley Dietetic Association and Hy-Vee on nutrition education programming that was acknowledged with the win of the 2005 Gem award from the Iowa Dietetic Association

The Quad City Health Initiative is a community partnership in active pursuit of a healthier community. A 35-member community Board that was established in 1999 governs the organization. The Initiative seeks to be a catalyst for improving the health and overall quality of life within the Quad City community. The Initiative raises awareness of health issues, encourages or creates projects to address gaps in health services and fosters community collaboration in all aspects of health. Major sponsors of the Initiative in 2007 are Genesis Health System and Trinity Regional Health System. Additional financial support is provided by Modern Woodmen of America and Alcoa.

For more information or to join the efforts of the Quad City Health Initiative, please call 563-421-2815 or visit our website at www.qchealthinitiative.org.

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